

Appl. No. 10/672,683  
Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2005

### **REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment and reconsideration of the claims. Claims 19, 21, 22, 25, and 27 have been amended to further clarify the invention. Applicants submit the amendment does not raise any issues of new matter and is supported by the specification. After entry of the amendment, claims 19-27 will be pending.

#### **35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph**

Claim 19-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner alleges the term "derivative" in the phrase "abietic acid or derivative thereof" is indefinite. The Examiner indicated amending the claims to recite "abietic acid or dehydroabietic acid" would overcome the rejection. To expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants, however, do not expressly concede the propriety of the rejection and reserve the right to pursue claims corresponding to the subject matter in a continuing application.

In view of the amendment to the claims, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as inherently anticipated by Sexena et al. (U.S. Patent Appl. Publ. No. 2003/0092674). The Examiner indicated the rejection could be overcome by amending the claims to recite contacting the cells with an abietic acid compound in combination with an anticancer drug. To expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicants, however, do not expressly concede the propriety of the rejection and reserve the right to pursue claims corresponding to the subject matter in a continuing application.

In view of the amendment to the claims, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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**Conclusion**

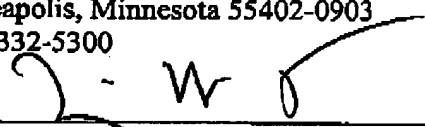
In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date:

28 July 2005

  
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Brian H. Batzli  
Reg. No. 32,960  
BHB:EED:lek